

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 211199
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 H-01
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PRS-01 TRSE-00
/052 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/WE/KSMITH:CM
APPROVED BY EUR- R.E. BARBOUR
EUR/WE/EMROWELL

-----092270 032254Z /61

R 022054Z SEP 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LISBON
INFO AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 211199

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, PO

SUBJECT: MONJARDINO COMMENTS ON AZORES NEGOTIATIONS

1. AZORES REGIONAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT ALVARO MONJARDINO BEGAN HIS VISIT TO THE U.S. AS A LEADER GRANTEE BY CALLING AT THE DEPARTMENT AUGUST 30. DURING A CONVERSATION WITH EUR/WE OFFICERS, MONJARDINO SAID HE HAD BEEN TOLD BY THE PORTUGUESE EMBASSY THAT A TEAM FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WOULD BE VISITING HERE (PRESUMABLY WASHINGTON) LATE IN SEPTEMBER TO RESPOND TO U.S. PROPOSALS MADE JUNE 17. MONJARDINO ADDED THAT THE PORTUGUESE FOREIGN MINISTRY IS "SOMEWHAT FRIGHTENED" OVER THE BASE NEGOTIATIONS, REFLECTING IN PART THE APPREHENSIONS OF A SMALL COUNTRY NEGOTIATING WITH A MUCH LARGER ONE.

2. ACCORDING TO MONJARDINO LISBON HAS BEEN "SURPRISINGLY CONSCIENTIOUS" IN CONSULTING WITH AZOREAN OFFICIALS ON
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 211199

BASE RENEWAL ISSUES. HIS BROTHER, JOSE MONJARDINO, WORKS WITH THE NEGOTIATING TEAM AND KEEPS ALVARO UP TO DATE ON THE PROGRESS OF U.S.-PORTUGUESE DISCUSSIONS.

3. DEPARTMENT OFFICERS DID NOT COMMENT ON MONJARDINO'S REMARKS EXCEPT WHEN HE REITERATED HIS EXPECTATION THAT SUBSTANTIAL FINANCIAL BENEFITS WOULD RESULT FROM A NEW

BASE RENEWAL AGREEMENT. DEPTOFFS THEN POINTED OUT THAT DUE TO THE RELATIVELY LOW ECONOMIC ABSORPTIVE CAPACITY OF THE AZORES, THERE IS A SERIOUS RISK THAT THE ISLANDS' ECONOMY AND CULTURE COULD BE SERIOUSLY HARMED IF TOO MUCH OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE IS POURED IN AT ONCE. MONJARDINO AGREED THAT THIS IS A REAL DANGER AND SAID THAT THE AZOREAN LEADERS RECOGNIZE THAT THEY HAVE A PROBLEM OF ABSORBING AND MANAGING OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE. THE AZOREANS ARE COUNTING ON U.S. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR HELP IN MANAGING DEVELOPMENT FUNDS.

4. DURING SEPTEMBER 1 MEETING WITH DEPARTMENT OFFICER, AMBASSADOR THEMIDO SAID NOTHING ABOUT POSSIBLE VISIT TO WASHINGTON BY PORTUGUESE FOREIGN MINISTRY DELEGATION. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NEGOTIATIONS, AZORES, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 02-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE211199
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: CM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770320-1147
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197709101/aaaadgzo.tel
Line Count: 77
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9e7eff38-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1064657
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MONJARDINO COMMENTS ON AZORES NEGOTIATIONS
TAGS: MARR, PO, US, (MONJARDINO, ALVARO)
To: LISBON
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9e7eff38-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009